

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CANBER 09021 152249Z
ACTION COME-00

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R 152117Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9501
INFO AMCONSUL PERTH

UNCLAS CANBERRA 9021

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BEXP, AS
SUBJ: FY 76 CCP FINAL REPORT

REF: (A) STATE 299531 (NOTAL), (B) CANBERRA 7898

1. APPRECIATE COMMENTS REFTEL A ON FY 76 CCP.
2. REGARDING PARA 5 OF REFTEL A, REQUESTING EMBASSY ASSESSMENT AS TO WHETHER MAJOR PROJECTS PROGRAM SHOULD CONCENTRATE ON GOVERNMENT RATHER THAN PRIVATE OPPORTUNITIES, EMBASSY IS NOT AWARE THAT THERE EXIST MAJOR UNEXPLOITED GOVERNMENT PROJECTS THAT OFFER FEASIBLE ALTERNATIVE TO MAJOR PROJECTS PROGRAM IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA.
3. BASING OF MAJOR PROJECTS PROGRAM IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA DOES NOT DETRACT FROM ABILITY OF OTHER AUSTRALIAN POSTS TO IDENTIFY MAJOR GOVERNMENT PROJECT OPPORTUNITIES IN THEIR DISTRICTS. THIS THEY HAVE DONE, AS WITH PROSPECTIVE POWER PLANT IN MELBOURNE. IT IS, OF COURSE, CORRECT THAT NATURE OF WESTERN AUSTRALIAN PROJECTS, WHICH FREQUENTLY INCLUDE AMERICAN CAPITAL AND IN ALMOST ALL CASES CONSIST OF FIRMS WELL AWARE OF CAPABILITIES AND SOURCES OF HEAVY EQUIPMENT NEEDED FOR THEIR PROJECTS, DIMINISHES OPPORTUNITY AND NEED FOR USG PROMOTION. HOWEVER, IN VIEW OF THEIR IMPORTANCE IN DOLLAR TERMS, EMBASSY CONTINUES TO BELIEVE THAT IMPORTANT PART OF CONGEN PERTH'S TRADE PROMOTION RESPONSIBILITIES OUGHT TO BE TO MONITOR AND REPORT ON DEVELOPMENTS IN THIS AREA. TRANSFER OF THIS FUNCTION FROM PERTH WOULD, WE BELIEVE, NOT NOTICEABLY INCREASE ACCESS OF U.S. FIRMS TO OTHER TRADE OPPORTUNITIES, BUT WOULD DIMINISH COMMERCIAL KNOWLEDGE AVAILABLE TO WASHINGTON ON THESE PROJECTS

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IN WHICH AMERICAN COMPANIES WILL PLAY A MAJOR ROLE.

HARGROVE

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NNN

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